



**To: USUAF Members**  
**From: Jay Dick, Senior Director of State and Local Government Affairs**  
**Re: Public Partnerships Quarterly Update – 2017 Year End**  
**Date: February 5, 2018**

Happy 2018! Sorry for the delay, but I wanted to hold off sending out the year end update in order to include the January activities of the United States Conference of Mayors. That said, while 2017 was a busy year here at Americans for the Arts, 2018 is shaping up to be an even bigger year as we work with our Public Partners to advance the arts and arts education at the federal, state and local levels.

But, before I get to the yearend wrap up, I wanted to make sure everyone took note of where our partners' meetings will be held this year. So, if we are coming to your community, expect a phone call or email so we can coordinate the best ways to highlight your local arts scene.

#### **United States Conference of Mayors**

Annual Meeting	June 8-11	Boston, MA
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#### **National Lt. Governors Association**

Annual Meeting	June 27-29	New Orleans, LA
New Elects Meeting	Nov 28-30	Alexandria, VA

#### **National Association of Counties**

Annual Meeting	July 13-16	Nashville, TN
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#### **National Conference of State Legislatures**

Legislative Summit	July 30 - Aug 2	Los Angeles, CA
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#### **National League of Cities**

City Summit	November 7-10	Los Angeles, CA
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#### **ICMA (city/county managers)**

Annual Conference	September 23-26	Baltimore, MD
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Now on to our partner updates for the last few months of 2017.

## The United States Conference of Mayors



*(L-R) USCM Vice President Stephen K. Benjamin, Mayor of Columbia, SC, Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings, Artist Michael Cerveris, USCM TAPES Committee Chair Hillary Schieve, Mayor of Reno, NV, USCM Executive Director and CEO Tom Cochran, Americans for the Arts President and CEO Bob Lynch, Burnsville, MN Mayor Elisabeth Kautz, Santa Fe Mayor Javier Gonzales and Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett.*



**Americans for the Arts** was pleased to host the Mayors Arts Breakfast at **The United States Conference of Mayors (USCM)** Winter meeting. Joining the 400 plus mayors were members of the Americans for the Arts' Board of Directors, United States Urban Arts Federation (USUAF) and members of the State Arts Action Network (SAAN) Council. During the breakfast, we were pleased to host **Second Lady of the United States Karen Pence** (pictured) as she spoke about the importance of Art Therapy. We were also pleased to hear **Representative Nancy Pelosi** speak directly after the arts program where she made several points as to why the arts are essential to America.

In addition to the speakers, four awards were presented. **Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings** received our 2018 Public Leadership in the Arts Award for a city with a population of 100,000 or more. **Santa Fe Mayor Javier**

**Gonzales** received our 2018 Public Leadership in the Arts Award for a city with a population under 100,000. **Maryland Governor Larry Hogan** received our 2018 Public Leadership in the Arts Award for state arts leadership (in absentia) and two-time **Tony Award-winning actor and singer Michael Cerveris** received our National Award for Citizen Artist.

Directly after the Mayors Arts Breakfast, **Reno Mayor Hillary Schieve**, the Chair of the USCM Tourism, Arts, Parks, Entertainment and Sports (TAPES) Committee convened a session on Burning Man. Speakers talked about the festival's history as well as its economic impact.

**Coming up:** Americans for the Arts will be soliciting ideas for resolution topics for the USCM's Summer meeting in Boston June 8-11.

### National Lt. Governors Association



### Arts and Economic Prosperity Study

NLGA hosted its Winter meeting in December where they welcomed any new Lt. Governors given the November elections. Pictured here is the place setting for the new Virginia Lt. Governor Justin Fairfax. Each Lt. Governor attending the NLGA conference received a copy of Americans for the Arts Economic Prosperity 5 study along with the results of their local studies.

I also had the opportunity to update the Lt. Governors on our State Military and Veterans Arts Initiative. Every Lt. Governor that I have spoken to is very excited about this program and is looking forward to participating once activities are rolled out.

Specific Lt. Governors who have expressed a strong interest are from: South Dakota, Arizona, Missouri, Vermont, Indiana, Delaware, Rhode Island, Louisiana, Virginia, Washington, Montana, and Puerto Rico.



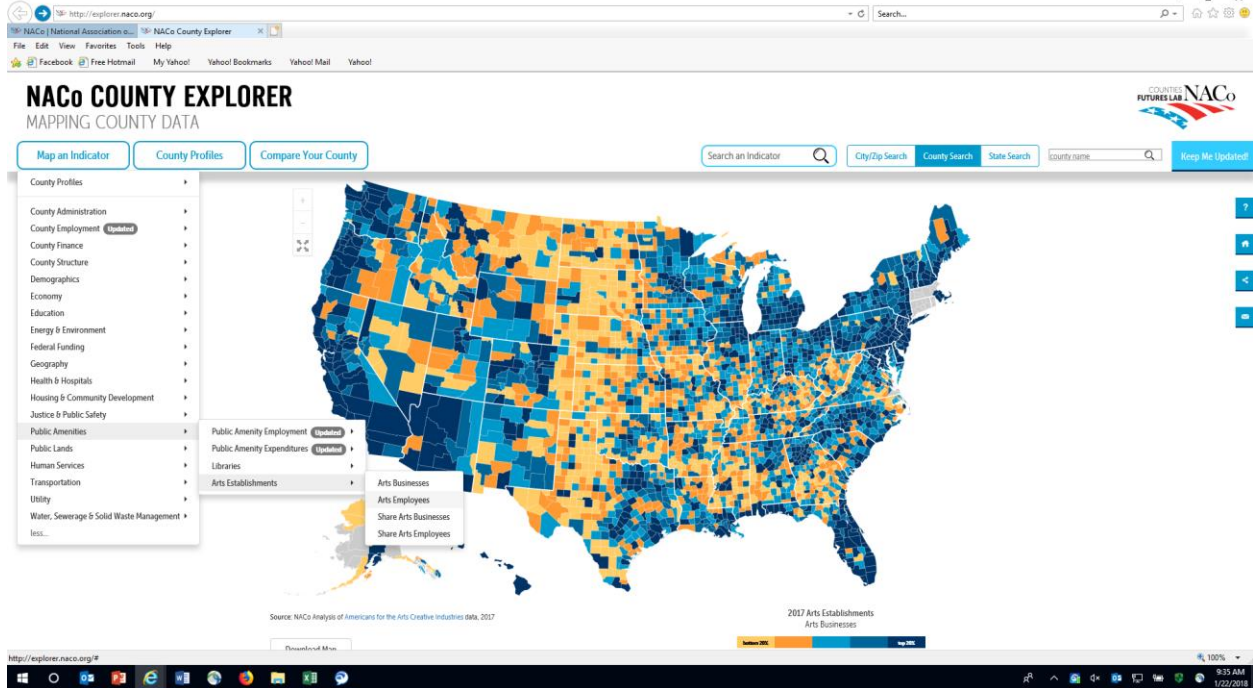
*NLGA Chairman Matt Michels, South Dakota, welcomes the speakers on the Arts and the Military panel*  
Arts and the Military Panel

Americans for the Arts was pleased to organize a panel discussion on the arts and healing for our military. Navy Commander Paul Sargent, M.D. is the site director for the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury site at Camp Pendleton, CA. He spoke to the clinical/medical reasons as to why arts therapy is beneficial. Further, Marine Sargent Benjamin Tourtelot (Ret.) assisted by clinical music therapist Rebecca Vaudreuil, discussed how music therapy aided in his recovery, but also, as he states, “saved his life.” Sargent Tourtelot, after serving two tours of duty in Afghanistan, was stationed in Hawaii where he trained Marines who were going to be deploying. During a helicopter repelling training exercise, Sargent Tourtelot basically fell 110 feet onto concrete landing head first. After months of surgeries and physical therapy, his body, while healing, was in tremendous pain. He stated that he would pray for death almost daily. Then, he discovered music therapy which he credits as opening up his mind and body. He now sings, (he sang the National Anthem to open the NLGA meeting) and has produced two CDs.

As someone who attends a lot of meetings with elected officials, I watched the audience when the speakers were talking and each Lt. Governor was paying close attention. They were not on their phones nor were they stepping out to take calls. This panel helped to cement our work with NLGA on our State Military and Veterans Arts Initiative.

**Coming up:** Americans for the Arts will attend the NLGA March meeting in DC and are working to arrange for Second Lady Pence to speak to the group on arts therapy.

## National Association of Counties



### NACo County Explorer Website.

In addition to our ongoing work, Americans for the Arts is proud to provide arts data for NACo's County Explorer web portal. The County Explorer has hundreds of different data points for each county. Several years ago, we approached NACo about including arts data on their system which they readily agreed. Today we have our arts employment and employer data for every county. I encourage you to check out your own county on the NACo [County Explorer](#). As always, thank you to Americans for the Arts Research department for their help.

### Our Town Grant

Work continues on the NACo and Americans for the Arts' NEA Our Town Grant. Teams have been chosen and are: Haines Borough, Alaska; Pottawattamie County, Iowa; Lafayette Parish, Louisiana; Sullivan County, New Hampshire; McKinley County, New Mexico; Athens County, Ohio; and Iron County, Utah.

In March 2018, the team members will travel to Polk County, Iowa, to participate in a creative place-making training and peer exchange workshop. During the workshop, attendees will receive intensive, hands-on training designed to boost their potential to integrate arts and culture into solutions to local economic development and quality of place challenges. They will develop tailored action plans that will guide their efforts to build more livable, dynamic and resilient communities with the arts at their core.

**Coming up:** NACo will host its 2018 Legislative Conference in DC where Americans for the Arts will participate in their Arts and Culture Committee meeting.

## National Conference of State Legislatures



*Arkansas State Senator Joyce Elliott received the 2017 Public Leadership in the Arts Award at NCSL's Fall Forum in San Diego, CA*

### NCSL Fall Forum

Each year, Americans for the Arts, in partnership with NCSL presents a state legislator with our Public Leadership in the Arts Award for state arts leadership. We were pleased to present Arkansas Senator Joyce Elliott with this year's award for her support and promotion of arts education in Arkansas and nationally. Sen. Elliott serves as Vice Chair of the Arkansas Senate Education Committee, and is former Co-Chair of the NCSL Education Committee. She is often recognized for her work in support of families, women, and underserved populations, but most often for her work in support of education where she has voiced public support for the integration of the arts across the curriculum. In her keynote speech at the 2017 Arts Education Partnership Annual Convening in Washington, DC, she dedicated her remarks to the importance of a quality arts education for every student. Sen. Elliott was a key member of the Arkansas team of the State Policy Pilot Program, a three-year initiative based out of Americans for the Arts, aimed at enabling the development of leadership in state-level policy-makers, advocates, researchers, and grant makers towards developing achievable arts education policy pursuits and sustainable advocacy infrastructures. Finally, she has played a key role in the support of the new Arkansas statewide arts advocacy organization: Arkansans for the Arts.

Americans for the Arts was also pleased to host a breakfast panel on the Creative Forces Initiative for NCSL's Labor and Economic Development Committee and its Military and Veterans Affairs Task Force. Participants heard from Sergeant Tourtelot (from the NLGA meeting) and from Dr. Deborah Good, ATR-BC. Dr. Good in addition to talking about the science of arts therapy, discussed licensure for arts therapists in the 50 states.

**Coming up:** Americans for the Arts will be working with NCSL to get them to highlight arts issues on their web site and blog.

## National League of Cities

Back in June, Americans for the Arts penned a blog post for the National Leagues of Cities (NLC) blog, [CitiesSpeak](#) titled [8 Ways the Arts Can Boost Your Local Economy & Strengthen Your Community](#). Recently, NLC issued its top ten blogs for 2017 and our post was number one! According to NLC staff, mayors and other city officials are very interested in how the arts and culture can transform a city and found the blog, with its local examples to be very useful. Americans for the Arts will continue to work with NLC in 2018 (and beyond) to help cities understand the impact the arts and culture can have on their communities.

I recently saw NLC Executive Director Clarence Anthony and NCSL Chair Mark Stodola of Little Rock Arkansas at the USCM meeting and discussed ways to strengthen our relationship with NLC. I have requested to speak at their March conference and explore other ways to educate their membership about the arts and culture.

**Coming up:** NLC is having their Congressional City Conference in Washington March 11-14.

## ICMA (City Managers Association)



In honor of Arts and Humanities Month, ICMA published a front-page article on our Arts and Economic Prosperity 5 study in PM Magazine, their monthly publication that goes to all of their members.

Oftentimes we forget about establishing relationships with the (unelected) city/county managers, but we need to remember that they are the ones who puts the budget together for their city/county.

I will be working more closely with ICMA in 2018 to strengthen our relationship.

Coming up: I will be working with ICMA to establish an award for a city/county manager.

## National Governors Association

No major news for this quarter for NGA.

Thanks for reading and never hesitate to reach out should you have any questions.